



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 285

January Session, 2011

Substitute House Bill No. 5956

House of Representatives, March 30, 2011

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTERNET WEB SITE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before July 1, 2012,
- 2 the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall publish on the department's
- 3 Internet web site an informational page listing any benefits, services or
- 4 programs offered to veterans or their families by any state or federal
- 5 agency, department or institution. The department shall maintain the
- 6 informational page after said date and shall update the informational
- 7 page annually. The department shall publish on the informational
- 8 page any information concerning the eligibility requirements and
- 9 application process for such benefits, services or programs, the name
- 10 and contact information of any entity offering such benefits, services or
- 11 programs, and a link to the Internet web site for such entity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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VA *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

PS

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill has no associated fiscal impact by requiring certain veterans' benefits information to be posted on the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) website. The information includes:

1. Eligibility requirement and application processes for any benefits. C.G.S. 27-102p requires DVA to report similar information in an annual report. Reporting this information on the DVA website would result in no additional cost.

2. The name and contact information of entities providing the benefits, including the website links to these entities. The DVA website currently provides website links and contact information on the website. Any additional information that would need to be added can be completed with no cost.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5956*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTERNET WEB SITE OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to publish an informational page on its Internet website by July 1, 2012, and after that date maintain and annually update it. The page must list any benefits, services, or programs any state or federal agency, department, or institution offers veterans or their families, including:

1. any information concerning the eligibility requirements and application process for veterans' benefits, services, or programs;
2. the name and contact information of any entity offering them; and
3. a link to the entity's Internet website.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Current DVA Website Contents***

In practice, the DVA website "Benefits Information" webpage currently contains links to a state benefits webpage; the U.S. Veterans Administration; the Connecticut Soldiers', Sailors', and Marines' Fund; and state departments of Labor and Higher Education. It also contains information on the DVA Office of Advocacy and Assistance, a link to "A Guide to CT Veterans Service Officers," and links respectively to DVA district offices and outreach locations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/08/2011)

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/15/2011)